



## GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



### **WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL BOARD DO?**

The Great Falls Public School District is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of seven (7) members. The main purpose of the school board is to provide governance over the District to ensure that students shall have ample opportunity to achieve their individual and collective learning needs. The Board's powers and duties include the broad authority to adopt and enforce all necessary policies for the management and governance of the public schools within the District.

The Board hires, evaluates, and seeks the recommendations of the Superintendent as the District's chief executive officer. The Board adopts policies necessary to provide the general direction for the District and to encourage achievement of District goals. The Superintendent develops plans, programs, and procedures needed to implement the policies and directs the District's day-to-day operations.

The Board's legal powers, duties and responsibilities are derived from the Montana Constitution and state statutes and regulations. Sources such as the school laws of Montana and the administrative rules of the Board of Public Education and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction delineate the legal powers, duties and responsibilities of the Board.

### **HOW OFTEN DOES THE SCHOOL BOARD MEET?**

Official action by Board members must occur at a duly called and legally conducted meeting. "Meeting" is defined as the convening of a quorum of the constituent membership of the Board, whether in person or by means of electronic equipment, to hear, to discuss, or act upon a matter over which the Board has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

The regular meetings of the GFPS Board shall be held at 5:30 p.m. on the second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Mondays of every month except July, October, December and February. Those months will have at least one (1) meeting per month. The meetings are held at the District Office Building, 1100 4<sup>th</sup> St. S.

School board members, as individuals, have no authority over school affairs, except as provided by law or as authorized by the Board.

### **WHAT IS THE TERM OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS?**

Except as otherwise provided by law, trustees shall hold office for terms of three years, or until their successors are elected and qualified. Terms of trustees shall be staggered as provided by law.

### **WHAT ARE BOARD POLICIES?**

The 1000 section policies of the Board define the organization of the Board and the manner of conducting its official business. The Board's operating policies are those that the Board adopts from time-to-time to facilitate the performance of its responsibilities. They can be found at:

<http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/districtinformation/boardpolicy/1000-series-board-trustees>.

The rest of the Board policies set forth operational guidance for District operations and management. The District works with the Montana School Boards Association for policy content and legal support. All Board policies can be found at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/districtinformation/boardpolicy>.